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To:
CC:
Date: 5/14/2014 2:23:53 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 5/14/14

OPA Daily Digest for 5/14/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Deb Fischer (Neb.) – Letter – 5/13/14: Constituent concerns about claim for payment from EPA regarding work done at the Madison County Superfund site. Due: 5/21/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Phone inquiry/email – 5/9/14: Concerns about MoDOT fine for soil erosion from road project. Due: 5/13/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Letter – 5/2/14: Constituent concerns about the Strecker Forest/Bliss Ellisville site removal action. Due: 5/16/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Wall Street Journal – John Emshwiller – 5/6/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Pitch Weekly, Kansas City – Steve Vockrodt – 5/14/14: Questions about an EPA role in consultations about a proposed single-terminal design at Kansas City International Airport. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KMOX Radio, St. Louis – Kevin Killeen – 5/14/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Environmental Stories:

Example: **St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Missouri offers deal in reservoir failure** - 5/13/08 - Missouri environmental regulators have proposed a settlement with St. Louis-based AmerenUE stemming from last year's Taum Sauk reservoir collapse. Settlement negotiations are ongoing and confidential.

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/missouristatenews/story/31F378F25B216B80862572430015B7BA?OpenDocument>

Also in St. Louis Business Journal, Columbia (Mo.) Daily Tribune, KTVI Ch. 2 (St. Louis)

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

KSDK-TV Ch. 5 - Construction union boss supports containment - 5/14/14 - The head of the St. Louis Building and Construction Trade Union says he supports an Environmental Protection Agency decision to contain radioactive material at the West Lake Landfill. In a letter to the editor published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Jeff Aboussie is calling on the EPA to follow through with that 2008 decision.

<http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/05/13/jeff-aboussie-west-lake-landfill/9056225/>

KMOX Radio - Little League Coach: Team Won't Take Field Until EPA Conducts Radiation Tests - 5/13/14 - The fear of health risks prompts a 7th grade boys little league team to refuse to play at the Bridgeton ball fields until the EPA conducts its testing for possible radioactive contamination from the nearby West Lake Landfill.

<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/05/13/little-league-coach-team-wont-take-field-until-epa-conducts-radiation-tests/>

Mason City Globe Gazette - Coalition calls for tougher Iowa clean water rules - 5/14/14 - A coalition of Iowa groups Tuesday called upon the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to strengthen proposed state clean water rules for large-scale commercial livestock operations.

http://globegazette.com/news/local/coalition-calls-for-tougher-iowa-clean-water-rules/article_6dbbefd7-339c-5116-8078-ddac1d78d9c2.html

St. Joseph News-Press - Isn't a swimming pool like a farm pond? - 5/14/14 - Remember the Clampetts, the "Beverly Hillbillies" and their concrete pond? Concrete pond was really a very apt description. Pool just sounds more sophisticated. Well, the Environmental Protection Agency is now stretching its power to seek to regulate farm ponds. They make the case that they have jurisdiction over navigational waters, including ponds.

http://www.newspressnow.com/opinion/your_letters/article_6565e7e4-a103-55e4-bbe2-4b689db306f5.html

Kansas City Star - EPA asked to regulate fracking's toxic air emissions - 5/14/14 - EPA asked to regulate fracking's toxic air emissions. The 112-page petition, filed by the public interest law firm Earthjustice, asks the EPA to use its authority under the Clean Air Act to develop "robust emission standards" limiting the amounts of benzene, formaldehyde and other harmful chemicals that can be released by wells and associated equipment.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/05/13/5021493/epa-asked-to-regulate-frackings.html#storylink=cpy>

Mason City Globe Gazette - Any confinement rules changes will take some time (Globe Gazette editorial) - 5/14/14 - Clear Lake farmer Chris Petersen is not one to mince words. He also is one whose position as president of the Iowa Farmers Union give his words some extra clout. Thus, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources no doubt took note when Petersen, speaking at a public hearing in Mason City on proposed changes to strengthen animal-feeding confinement pollution rules, said those changes won't be strong enough.

http://globegazette.com/news/opinion/editorial/any-confinement-rules-changes-will-take-some-time-globe-gazette/article_ce9964b2-002c-58c0-9dca-623a34fdecad.html

St. Louis Post Dispatch - McClellan: Who should pay for a family's loss? - 5/14/14 - Sid Copeland started Northwest Auto Body in 1933. The shop was at Shreve and West Florissant avenues. John Kitchin began working at the shop in 1949. He was a World War II vet. He had been in the Navy. Served in the Philippines. Came home and married Helen Goellner. Started a family.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/columns/bill-mcclellan/mcclellan-who-should-pay-for-a-family-s-loss/article_d5904595-9323-56f7-bb0e-b3b7d0c84a62.html

The Hill - Ethics violations, child porn among recent EPA employee offenses - 5/14/14 - An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) employee pleaded guilty to accessing child pornography in 2012 on a website he used his EPA email to access, the agency's internal watchdog said Tuesday. The revelation came in a report from EPA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) detailing the 16 employee integrity cases the office closed between October 2013 and March 2014, ranging from the child pornography case to a manager who thought his office was bugged.

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/206024-ethics-violations-child-porn-among-recent-epa-employee-offenses#ixzz31i0xcxtP>

OilPrice.com - Obama's On A Winning Streak In Drive To Curb Air Pollution - 5/14/14 - The Obama administration has won its third court victory on air pollution regulation in less than a month with a unanimous 3-0 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals in favor of the Environmental Protection Agency.

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/General/Obamas-On-A-Winning-Streak-In-Drive-To-Curb-Air-Pollution.html>

Bloomberg BNA - McCarthy Says EPA on Track to Propose Guidelines for Existing Power Plants June 2 - 5/14/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is on track to propose “legally sound” guidelines for limiting carbon dioxide under the Clean Air Act for existing power plants June 2, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said May 13.
<http://www.bna.com/mccarthy-says-epa-n17179890452/>

Daily Caller - Industries Unite To Warn That The EPA Seeks To ‘Dictate Energy Policy’ - 5/13/14 - Energy producers are worried that the Environmental Protection Agency’s carbon dioxide emissions limits are a way for the executive branch to effectively exert unilateral control over U.S. energy policy. It’s not just the coal industry that is worried about EPA policies.
<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/13/industries-unite-to-warn-that-the-epa-seeks-to-dictate-energy-policy/#ixzz31i1o8FIP>

Daily Caller - EPA Spends Millions Getting People \$14 Per Hour Green Jobs - 5/14/14 - The agency’s Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) hands out millions of dollars every year to local non-profits who then use the money to teach the “unemployed and under-employed, including veterans, minority, and predominately low income individuals” skills they need to work in the environmental field.
<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/14/epa-spends-millions-getting-people-14-per-hour-green-jobs/#ixzz31imzFbM4>

Greater Greater Washington - EPA will close its best bike room - 5/14/14 - The US Environmental Protection Agency plans to close its only state-of-the-art employee bike room in Washington this July, as it consolidates office space. About 100 employees are not sure whether they will continue to bike to work.
<http://greatergreaterwashington.org/post/22825/epa-will-close-its-best-bike-room/>

Tallahassee Democrat - Lynn Ringenberg: EPA rules can help protect children - 5/13/14 - The National Climate Assessment released last week should be a call to action. We must take steps to reduce carbon pollution or face increasingly dire public health consequences. I’ve been practicing pediatric medicine for more than 35 years, and I’ve seen a worrisome decline in children’s health over this time.
<http://www.tallahassee.com/story/opinion/columnists/2014/05/13/lynn-ringenberg-epa-rules-can-help-protect-children/9051739/>

RFD TV - EPA administrator says new RFS rule expected in June - 5/14/14 - New Renewable Fuel Standard rules are likely to be released in June. The Environmental Protection Agency is responsible, in part, for developing the rules which guide how many gallons of renewable fuels are used in the United States. The agency proposed a set a rules in November and took comments on it.
<http://www.rfdtv.com/story/25506038/epa-administrator-says-new-rfd-rule-expected-in-june#.U3PLMfmQz4Y>

Farmers Advance - Upton: EPA's proposed water rule is 'nutty' - 5/14/14 - More than a dozen western Michigan blueberry producers gathered April 25 in a field outside South Haven to share their concerns about wetland regulations with Dist. 6 Congressman Fred Upton (R-St. Joseph).
<http://www.farmersadvance.com/article/20140514/NEWS/405140311/Upton-EPA-s-proposed-water-rule-nutty->

Electric Light & Power - Most Americans worried EPA regulations mean higher electricity bills, blackouts - 5/14/14 - Most Americans (76 percent) are at least somewhat worried that new regulations proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remove coal-powered electricity from the nation's energy mix will lead to higher prices for consumers, according to an online survey of 2,058 adults conducted in April 2014 by Harris Poll on behalf of the National Mining Association (NMA).
<http://www.elp.com/Electric-Light-Power-Newsletter/articles/2014/05/most-americans-worried-epa-regulations-mean-higher-electricity-bills-blackouts.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

5/14/14 – State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

5/15/14 – Small Business Majority Roundtable, Waterloo, Iowa. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

5/20-21/14 – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

6/4/14 – Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) Visit, Regional Office. Contact: Deandre Singletary, 7373

6/5/14 – Incident Command System Training, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

6/12/14 – Joint R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7373

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

DRA:

5/20-21/14 – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

*5/14-16/2014– Recognition of Washington University's Food Recovery Efforts, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646.

*5/19-23/2014 – Participating National Corrective Action Lean Event for Corrective Measures Study (CMS) phase, Washington, DC. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

5/15/14 – Trailnet, St. Louis, Mo. For EJ Grant Site Visit Contact: B. Corazzin, 77429

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

None

WWPD

***5/11-13/14** – Joint Meeting of State-FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group (SFIREG) Working Committees for Pesticides Operations and Management and Environmental Quality Issues, Arlington, Va. Contact: Jamie Green, 7139

***5/13-16/14** – National Association of Clean Water Agencies Pretreatment Conference, Minneapolis, Min. Contact: Paul Marshall, 7419

***5/28/14** – Iowa Confined Animal Feeding Operations Workplan Discussion with IDNR, Lamoni, Ia. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782, Dan Breedlove, 7172, Stephen Pollard, 7582
